



Alberta Cattle Commission

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

April 1997

Call us at (403) 275-4400

Cattle/Petroleum Workshop April 15

A one day workshop to bring cattle producers up-to-date on follow-up and potential research activities relating to the cattle and oil and gas industries will be held April 15 at the Red Deer Lodge.

Cattle producers are encouraged to attend. Those interested should register with the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) office at (403) 275-4400 in order to receive materials in advance of the workshop.

Cattle producers, petroleum industry representatives and government

regulators will be part of discussions and workshops on research priorities, follow-up activities and responses from the field.

The program will begin with presentations on the ACC report conclusions, recommendations, follow-up initiatives and research priorities identified at the January scientists' workshop.

A major portion of the day will be spent in professionally facilitated workshops examining actions underway and suggestions for additional actions to address field situations.

Raising the Standard for Beef Food Safety

Beef food safety and longer shelf life of beef are the primary goals of research being conducted at the Lacombe Research Station.

"If we're going to improve the microbiological condition of meat there is a need to implement what is known as the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (HACCP)," says Dr. Colin Gill. HACCP is a system for quality assurance based on the principle that quality is most reliably attained by preventing problems rather than addressing them at the end. As Gill describes it, "it's applied

common sense."

All research work is being done at Alberta packing plants and the project is receiving a high level of cooperation from industry.

In addition to raising the standard on food safety and quality, packing plants are expected to see a benefit with increased storage time. This factor is important with more centralization and longer shipping distances, packers will be able to increase their efficiencies.

Work at Lacombe has been underway for three years. It is funded in part by the Alberta Cattle Commission.

DNA Markers Used to Select Superior Cattle

Scientists are working to develop tests that cattle producers will be able to use in the future to select breeding stock that will produce offspring with superior quality beef.

Studies just completed at the University of Saskatchewan suggest that a DNA marker for leanness and/or marbling is "just around the corner". Current studies will confirm the marker in many breeds and more importantly among crossbred calves.

There are three elements to the project: studying inter-generational genetic inheritance, measuring beef grading and quality data, and charting DNA. Six different cattle breeds are involved.

Research leading toward development of a more consistent beef product was initiated and partly funded by the Alberta Cattle Commission and Canadian Cattlemen's Association with matching funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Endangered Species Bill

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continues to press for changes to Bill C-65, the Endangered Species Protection Act. The CCA has met with the Environment Minister, the advisory committee and over 50 members of Parliament to outline their concerns that elements of the bill will undermine cooperative efforts by landowners and conservation groups to protect species and their habitat.

**Cattle Market
Information**
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